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The Octofoil, May/June/July 1997

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087 THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Volume XLXXII Number 3 May-June-July 1997

Friends of Father Connors to Conduct 53rd Memorial Mass Services

We who call ourselves "Friends of Father Connors" will again join together in praying for our dead on Sunday, October 19th, 1997, at the eleven o'clock Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Grove Street, Worcester, MA.

We will also remember in our prayers the men who wore the Octofoil, returned with us, and who have now gone on to their eternal reward. A service will follow the Mass at the memorial on the church grounds dedicated to all who served wearing the Octofoil.

We will also sponsor a luncheon at the Holiday Inn, Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA, at 12:30 p.m. We guarantee that you will be on your way by 3:00 p.m.

We invite all members to join us as we pray for our dead.

We have reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn, Worcester. Reservations must be made by yourselves. The phone number is 1-508-852-4000. Reservations must be made by Oct. 8, 1997. Reservations for the luncheon must be made payable to "New England Chapter, Ninth Infantry Division Association," at a cost of \$17.00, and mailed to Thomas J. Boyle, 39 Hall Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144. Should you have problems, please call 1-617-625-8127.

We ask you to join us as we say a few prayers for the 4,581 men we left behind.

Friends of Father Connors
Fran Maher
Herb Olsen
Ron Murphy
Tom Boyle

Room 102 will open about 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 1997.

President's Message

First, I would like to thank the Board of Governors for electing me as your National President.

A special thanks to Henry Santos, Al Perna and Mike Belmonte for their fine job on the 52nd annual reunion. I'm sure that Dan Quinn was involved seeing that the National Board was responsible for the convention.

It was nice to see so many members and friends making the effort to attend the reunion and to their children and grandchildren who came with them. I'm sure it meant a lot to them to be able to attend.

I have talked to several people from the different chapters, and want to encourage them to keep up the good work they are doing in the local chapters. This is what keeps our membership up with their memorial services and meetings throughout the year.

Next year's convention will be in Hampton, Virginia, May 5-6-7. This is another convention by a National Committee. Al Perna, George Brown and Dan Quinn will be the people in charge of the 53rd Annual Reunion. If they need more help, please volunteer. This is a big job.

I hope to see everyone next year at the convention.

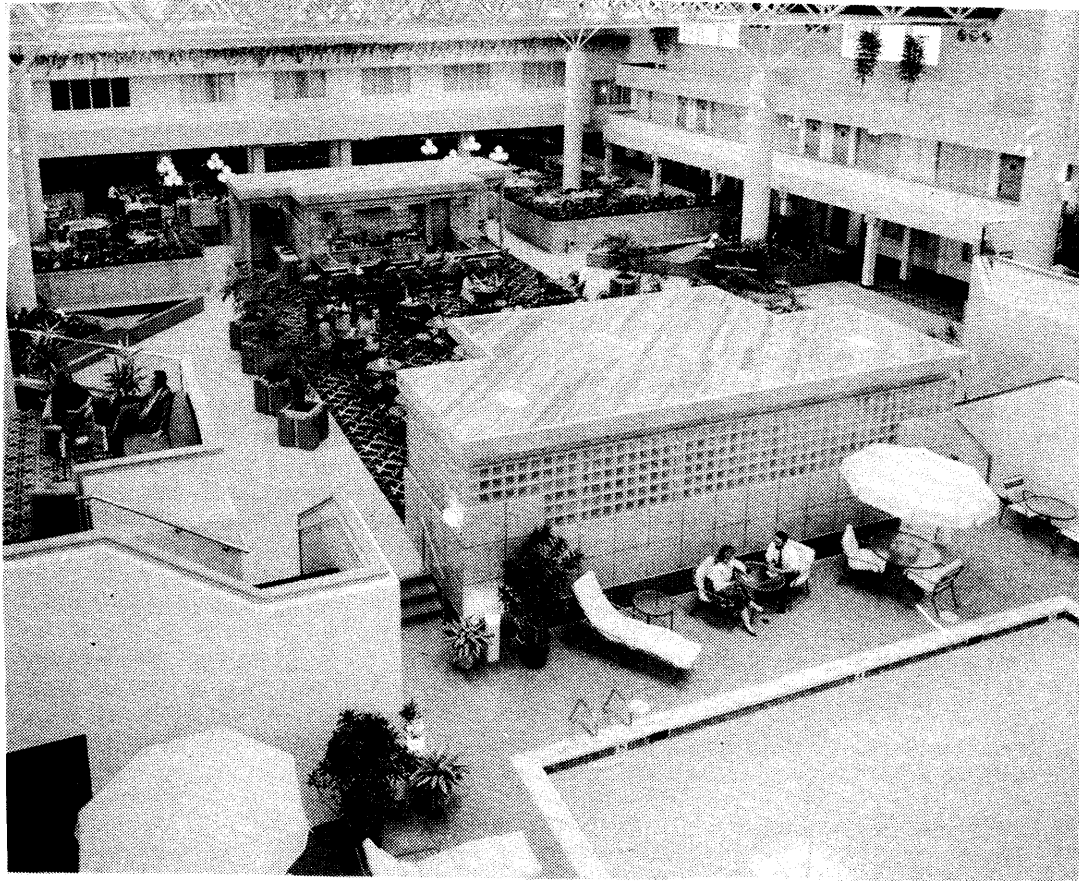
God Bless,

Thomas W. Hatton
10 Northlawn Ct.
Saginaw, MI 48602-1813

**53rd Annual Reunion
9th Inf Div Assn
May 5, 6, 7, 1998**

Holiday Inn — Hampton — Coliseum Hotel & Conference Center Virginia

Welcomes Ninth Division Association Members



The Atrium of the Holiday Inn, Hampton Virginia headquarters site for the Associations' 53rd reunion May 5, 6, 7, 1998.

The Holiday Inn Hampton Hotel and Conference Center is conveniently located directly off Interstate 64 midway between Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach, just 5 minutes away from restaurants, movie theaters and shopping malls. Add to this our indoor and outdoor pools, jogging course and 13 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and we are sure you will agree we offer something for everyone! For your conference needs, we have over 16,000 square feet of flexible meeting and banquet space, making us the largest and most versatile Conference Center on the Virginia Peninsula!

The Holiday Inn has over 300 rooms and more than enough to accommodate the Association's members under one roof. Parking is free alongside of each unit or rooms, three stories high with elevator service in each section.

Report on Reunion

We hope everyone who attended the Reunion in Louisville in May enjoyed themselves. Louisville offered many tours and attractions. We tried to get into Ft. Knox for samples but no such luck.

The hotel accommodations were excellent and we didn't hear any complaints about that. We were happy to see so many Illinois members in attendance. Wanda Preston came with the Grays and it was great seeing her there. Hope she can continue to attend.

The highlight of the Reunion was the boat trip on the Belle of Louisville on Thursday night in place of the Welcome Party. The weather was perfect as was the food and excellent music.

We were a little disappointed in the Saturday Banquet. The food was excellent but everything ended so abruptly after the speech. Our congratulations to the new President, Tom Hatton. Good luck in the coming year.

Our thanks go to Henry Santos for a job well done as Chairman. Many do not realize the time and effort expended in organizing a reunion. Also thanks to Ernie and Dorothy Micka for all their help. Bob Hughes contributed immensely to the success of the reunion. He was instrumental in having the Ninth Division Banner mounted on a building in downtown Louisville. The sign was seen by a son of one of my buddies who is deceased. He came to the hotel to look me up and any other members of his dad's unit. What a small world!

We heard Henry Santos landed in the hospital upon his return home. He had by-pass surgery and also suffered a stroke. His wife Eva said he is coming around slowly. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Henry.

Mike Belmonte,
Co-Chairman '97 Reunion
1161 South Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304-2245

15th Engineers

It's been a couple of months since the end of the 52nd annual reunion, but I still have a good remembrance of a class get together.

Thanks, to the hard working group that put this reunion together. People like Henry and Eva Santos, Mike and Ann Belmonte, Ernie and Dot Micka, Bob "Doc" Hughes and a volunteer who helped with the registration, she looked familiar to me and told me she was honored to help out.

Continued on page 3



Change of Command

Outgoing Pres. Al Perna receiving a plaque from Tom Hatton (new president of the Association).

Deadline for next Octofoil Oct. 20th

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Octofoil Associated Editors
Walter O'Keefe and Daniel Quinn

National Officers
President
Thomas Hatton
10 Northlawn Ct.
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Billie Martin, 1st V.P.
31991 Carleider St.
Beverly Hills, Mi 48025

Ronald Murphy, 2nd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, MA 02068

Pat DeColli, 3rd V.P.
1017 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 18148

Dave Heller
Judge Advocate
618 Sumac Rd.
Highland Pk., Il 60035

Thomas Boyle, Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, NJ 07087

Board of Governors

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Ken Meyer
Belton, TX
Phil Bermani
Daytona, FL
Owen Salle
Decatur, IL
Al Zenka
Bellrose, NY
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Lambertville, MI

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Thomas Hatton
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Scarboro, ME

2000
Richard Boudouy
Altamonte Springs, FL
Jack Collier
St. Louis, MO
Larry McLaughlin
Wakefield, MA
Richard Starr
Philadelphia, PA
John Miller
Arlington, TX

Published five times yearly. May, June, July - Aug., Sept., Oct., - Nov., Dec., - Jan., Feb., - Mar, April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association read: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division.

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication of the 20th.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. 07087, and additional offices.

POST MASTER: Send address changes to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

Volume XLXXII Number 3 May-June-July 1997

Publication #402820
NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn. 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name.....Serial No.....

Street Address.....

I was a member of:

Battery.....Company.....Regiment.....9th Div.....

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member per year.....\$10.00

Sustaining Member.....

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund.....

THREE-YEAR MEMBER.....\$25.00

Life Membership.....\$75.00

Ladies Auxiliary Member.....\$300

Decals.....50-each

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington, D.C.	<input type="checkbox"/>
New England	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Texas & South West	<input type="checkbox"/> California Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ladies Auxiliary
Ninth Infantry Division Association
Membership Application
Clara Scott, Treasurer
1517 Shields St.
Sherman, Tx. 75092
Tel. #903-893-8696

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My spouse (Brother or relative)

Served with _____

One year.....\$3.00

Credit Chapter _____

Tip of the Hat

Remembering the Memorial Fund and their buddies who have answered their last roll call we thank the following members and friends:

Gerard Charron — In memory of his twin brother Arthur E. Charon, Co. A 60th Inf.

Ruth Kargir — In memory of husband Jack, 84th F.A. Hq. Btry.

Aldor Cook — In memory of Dr. Walter Sperling, 9th Med. Bn. C. Co.

George Hulka

Frederick Talarico — In memory of Frank Baker, Jack Kargir, Albert Phenix and Leo Smith, 84th F.A. Bn.

Edward Kurlawicz — In memory of 15th Engrs. Bn.

Edward and Carl Junghans — In memory of George Mibitalee, 2nd Bn. 49th Inf.

William Rybka — In memory of Pat Rice (wife of Pete Rice), Bob McGoldrick, Albert "Frenchy" Phenix, Steve Yovick, Jack Kargir, Ernest Mardarello and Maryagnes Szuba and son (wife and son of Matthew Szuba).

Paul Bolduc — In memory of Phil Emmons, Henry Crane, Paul Lysart, Byron Angell, Glen Bowman and all members of 15th Engrs. and Mary Murphy (wife of Ron Murphy).

Chester Mikus — In memory of "Frenchy" Phenix, Al Morowski, Robert McGoldrick, Jack Kargir and Fr. Edward Connors.

Men of M Co. 60th Inf. — In Memory of Royal Edmark

Richard McGrath — In Memory of Tony Madonna, Fred D'Amore and Barney Angell, B Co. 15th Engrs.

Fred Talarico — In memory of John O'Donnell, Hqs. Btry, Div. Arty.

Normandy Medal Unavailable in U.S.

The French Embassy does not issue medals to U.S. WWII vets who served in the Normandy Campaign. Nor does the U.S. government issue the "Jubilee of Liberty" medal created by the Regional Council of Normandy in 1994 to commemorate D-Day's 50th anniversary.

To request this medal, send a copy of your military records to prove Normandy involvement to: Association Debarquement et Bataille de Normandie 1944, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, B.P. 311, 14015 Caen Cedex, France. Fax 011-33-2-3195 1281.

Note: Be sure you send photocopies of **both** sides of your discharge.

I suggest you send all papers via registered mail, with return receipt requested.

RAYMOND M. CONNOLLY JR.
11 Dunstable Road
Southampton, NJ 08088-1003
From V.F.W. Magazine
June/July 1997.

LADIES CORNER

No "Shortie" column this time, because there's a lot to tell all the people who missed our 52nd Annual Reunion in Louisville in May. First the Galt Hotel w/services was great in a beautiful old city, the weather cooperated, the program Henry Santos and Committee planned for us was most enjoyable, and I think that the almost 500 people who attended had a good time. I know that Joe and I did, even though only about 4 other Company B, 47th Regiment men came. Our own Ladies Auxiliary meeting attended by approximately 55-60 members on May 23rd, was most productive. We elected for President - Marline Sanchez, Vice-President - Alice Granbury, Treasurer - Clara Scott, Secretary - Jean Miller, Chaplain - Laryce Rybka, all to serve for 2 years. Then, voted on sending \$200.00 each to our last Reunion's nominees for donations, but never sent: the VA Kingsbridge Medical Center in Bronx, NY's Spinal Cord Injury Patient Computer Laboratory, and the National Bowling Association's Fund for Veterans' Groups, suggested by Doris Mansfield, wife of Harry Mansfield (Battery B, 34th Field Artillery Battalion), of Taylors, South Carolina.

For this year, we voted to send \$200.00 to the Building of the "Women In Service Memorial" around Arlington Cemetery in Virginia, for a total commitment of \$600.00. Muriel Gray presented it to our membership for their approval. Muriel, as well as former President Ruth Lees, are former Army Nurses, and probably there are some more in our organization, of whom I am unaware.

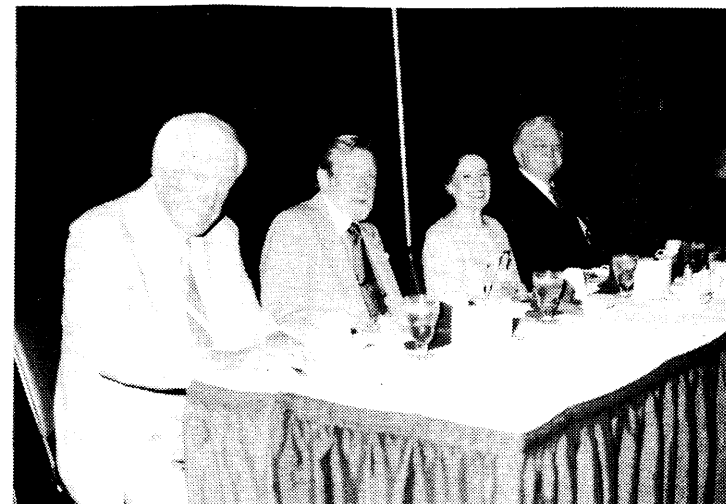
Our new Treasurer Clara Scott will send them checks as soon as possible. Member Marjorie Megla spoke to us on Veterans' benefits, urging us to write our Congressperson (Ours is a wonderful Lady!), regarding them.

Next, Phyllis Perna, former Auxiliary Officer, talked to us on the 1998 Reunion (as the wife of Assn. President Al Perna, she had a say on the plans). We had earlier approved a Breakfast Meeting for the next Reunion, which will be held in Hampton, Virginia next May 5th, 6th and 7th, 1998, so when she called me on July 2nd, it was part of the plans. Therefore on Wednesday, May 6th, our Auxiliary will host a Breakfast at 8:30 A.M.; the cost will be \$9.00, payable in advance to:

Clara Scott, Treasurer
1517 Shields Street
Sherman, Texas 75092
Tele #(903) 893-8696

The meeting will follow after the meal, and the name of our room, still unknown, will be given to you in a future column. If you must cancel, do it 2 weeks in advance for a refund. Last minute Reminders: Henry Santos could use a "Cheering-Up" card or note please? Ginny Driscoll of our Auxiliary won the beautiful Duck Lamp in the Big Raffle at our Reunion. Way to go, Ginny! Also, please forgive my Memory lapse (you all know about them don't you?) but I don't know if I mentioned that Dennis Canedy's wife, Thora, of our Company B, 47th Regiment, passed away earlier this year, or not. If you know her or him, a note would help! Whew! Finally done. Take care and please keep in touch.

Ellie Taubner
85 Smith Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
July 18, 1997



Dan Quinn, Walter O'Keefe and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Williams are pictured before the dinner at the 52nd Reunion. Joe Williams was the key note speaker at the Banquet.

39th Inc. C. Co.
WILLIAM ANDERSON
27569 Via Montague
San Juan Capistrano, CA
92675

I just looked at my membership card and noticed that my dues were paid through 1995. Where does the time go? Enclosed please find a check to cover a life membership.

60th Inf. F Co.
W. J. MALONE
8636 Peppermill Run
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Please find enclosed check for \$10.00 which should keep my dues current.

Hope to meet you folk in Kentucky in May. Been a long time since I've gone to a reunion.

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in ... why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

Continued from page 1

Engineers Report

One day as I was checking the board that showed who was in attendance a man behind me asked if I was in the 15th Engineers and if I knew Holt Rast. Sure I said, everyone seemed to know him as he was one of the most popular Officers in the battalion. The man was Bob Landis who was in the 47th Regiment and he and Holt Rast were wounded in France and spent time recovering side by side in a hospital in England. Knowing that John Hoyt was serving in C Company where Holt Rast was C.O. I introduced them and I'm sure as one Officer to another they have a long talk about their overseas duty.

The reunion was first class for many reasons, one was the Galt Hotel in a good part of Louisville. Like the New Orleans reunion there was a free city bus that would pick you up from the front of the hotel take you on a round trip to any place, drop you off and pick you up later. The hotel was very good with excellent accommodations. Good memories of that place and right next to the Ohio River that took us on a tour.

Louisville was a good city to have a reunion and memorable because the Mickas were so generous to show us around, they took us to their beautiful home, in that was more of a country area than a city. We really appreciated that.

Henry Santos said, there were many first timers at this reunion, more than usual.

Dick Iannone was one of them. Dick came all the way from California and it was a joy to see him after all these years. For the ones like Charlie Hoffman, Jim Mullen, and Paul Lisa I will list the B Company men who did make the attendance list. They were Bob Apel, Art Schmidt, Ernie Micka, Allie Ferrante, Jerry Shea, Bob Mandle, Ernie Newhart, Walter Gaestel, Milton Cross, and Dick McGrath. Most with their wives gave B Company the largest group as usual, in the 15th Battalion.

Before I forget, thanks to Henry Santos and his lovely wife Eva for providing the welcome room for the Engineers.

Enclosed is a donation to Memorial Fund in remembrance of buddies Tony Madonna, Fred D'amore, and Barney Angell. Leaders in B Company that will never be forgotten.

15th Engrs. B. Co.
RICHARD MCGARTH
2856 West 85th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60652

15th Engrs. Co's, B
ERNEST G. MICKA
114 Spring Garden Dr.
Louisville, KY 40218-3734

Here it is a little over a month that we had our reunion in Louisville and our contingent of 5 hopes that everyone had a good time at the reunion and were able to get out and enjoy Louisville to some degree.

A bit of bad news to pass on to everyone: Henry Santos felt poorly before, during and after the reunion but managed to drive home

PROPOSAL

Revisit the ETO

Two Truly Fantastic Tours

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Departing September 11, 1998, ** 10 Day Tour **

NORMANDY BEACHES, PARIS And Other

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*** Overnights: Paris (3) Caen (1) Tours (2)

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Departing September 19, 1998 **10 Day Tour **

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*** Overnights: Cologne (2) Luxembourg (3)

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*****VISIT: REMAGEN - MAGARATEN - BASTOGNE *****

Special Reduced Group Price Include:

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John Miller of the Texas Chapter proposed this plan at the reunion. The association is not sponsoring the trips and is not responsible in any way.

**CALL OR WRITE A
FRIEND -
ENCOURAGE HIM
TO JOIN THE
ASSOCIATION**

**John W. Miller
Bolo Specialities
1511 Cochise Dr.
Arlington, TX 76012**

**1998 Reunion
Hampton, Virginia
May 5, 6, 7th**

NINTH SIGNAL COMPANY TENTH ANNUAL REUNION

to Florida. His condition didn't improve and on the 10th of June, his wife Eva called to let us know he would have by-pass surgery on the 11th. The Louisville group is very thankful that we had Henry to work with — for a little guy he carries around a tremendous amount of knowledge and ideas as to how to put on a good reunion. I'd also like to thank, once again, Ann and Mike Belmont as well as Fran McGrath for their help in the registration area.

"B" Co. 15th Engrs. had a pretty nice turn out. The following were present: Ernie Micka & Dot, Al Ferrante & Marge, Jerry Shea & Pat, Dick McGrath & Fran, Bob Apel & Midge, Ernie Newhart & Alice, Art Schmidt, Richard Iannone, and Robert Mandle - the only officer of ours in attendance!

We missed two of our usual attendees - Pat DeColli & Tony San Giacomo. I had reports that both were ill. Hope they recuperate rapidly.

Some most recent news:

Al Ferrante and family left on the 26th of June to spend a little time in Bermuda.

Bob Mandle called me on the 26th and after a lengthy conversation I found out he's planning to spend 3 months in his Switzerland "chateau" starting in August. I think he goes there each year to practice his "Yodelling lessons!"

Today, the 28th of June, I called Eva Santos and she reports that Henry is slowly improving and should come out of I.C.U. in a couple of days.

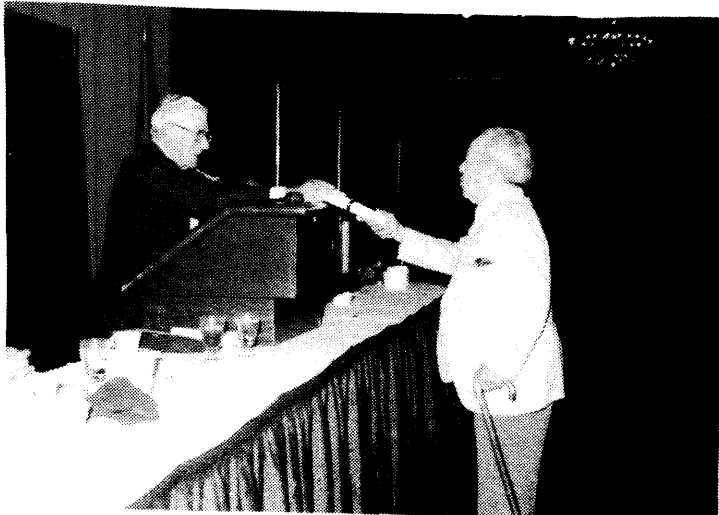
I'll end this here, asking all to say a prayer for Henry's complete recovery. Thank you.

If the names regal, regal rear and regal switch sound familiar to you, along with "notorious" then we want to let you know and start making plans to attend our 1997 version and return to a spot that all the troops and their wives enjoyed so much the last time we were there, and that was 1994, and the location will be the same. St. Clairsville, Ohio, "The Days Inn" overlooking that magnificent view in the Ohio Valley, great dining places, "Oglebay," paddle boat lunch cruise, the nearby malls, but most importantly to get together "for at least one more time," to enjoy each others friendship, comradery and God's blessing for all that he has given us, especially our wives and families and the life and health to enjoy them.

Dates are September 18, 19, 20, 1997. (Some of us will be there on the 17th, and of course you are welcome.

For the Committee

Raymond M. Connolly Jr.
11 Dunstable Road
Southampton, N.J. 08088



Henry Santos Chairman of the Kentucky reunion is presented with scroll for Honorary Colonel of Kentucky, by Robert Hughes.

REFLECTIONS - WWII

Dear Dan,
Here are my thoughts about my very good friend, Bill Larson.

William B. "Bill" Larson, The silent, great soldier of the Second battalion, 47th Infantry.

Early this year we lost one of our finest soldiers and I would like to tell you about him.

Bill was a draftee who joined the Ninth Division in early 1941 as did many other young men from the New York, New Jersey area. He was assigned to "F" company of the 47th and rose to the rank of sergeant quickly.

I met Bill when we both were assigned to Fort Benning for Officer Candidate School, which he completed with top-rated results in May, 1942. He then, at his request, returned to the 47th and was placed in "A" company.

I met Bill again in October, 1942 when I joined the 47th as a replacement officer just as we were sailing for Safi, Morocco but, since I was in the second battalion and he was in the first, we didn't see much of each other until we met during the battle of El Guettar where he won the Silver star and was so outstanding a leader that, at the end of that action, he was chosen to command the reformed "E" company and he chose me to be his executive officer.

For the next fifteen months I was at his side and had the opportunity to see this fine soldier and gentleman do the wonderful job he did to bring a company of nearly raw recruits to top level combat readiness. Many of the fine men of "E" company can thank Bill Larson for getting them ready to face some of the toughest day of their lives.

Bill never seemed to have to raise his voice to get things done. The soldiers in his company knew that this rose-cheeked young man knew what he was talking about and they followed his orders without question.

Bill was also a man of highest morals, He was married to his Mary Louise before we went over seas and there was hardly a day that he didn't write her and mention how much he missed her.

Captain Larson was wounded in early July, 1944 but again returned to the 47th, this time as battalion exec to Lt. Col. "Chip" Maness and Lt. Col. Ray Inzer and he always did an outstanding job.

I miss all the fine men I served with in the 47th as they leave us, but none do I remember like Mr. William B. Larson!

With deepest respect,

47TH INF.
JAMES E. LEOPOLD
100 E. Bellevue PL.
Chicago, IL 60611
TEL. # 313-951-6744



Jim Leopold sends photo taken in Germany December 1944, of the 2nd Bn 47th Staff. Left to right Bill Larson, John Bonnett, Dan Duncan, "Chip" Maness and Leopold.

Co. K 60th Inf
JOSEPH L. RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman
Oak Park, MI 48237

In contemplating the coming reunion, I thought of writing a word or two insofar as thoughts of the Ninth ran on through my mind - and which so often is the case -

Sentiments and longings that are tremendously tender

So often give rise to faces and places remembered - Sgt. Benson, PFC Ombrello - the Hurtgen Forest in mid-December -

The heart does not ache - their deeds are engendered

Thus it is that our hearts can take pride

In having G.I.'s such as they fight on our side.

FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

STEVE CHAMPAGNE TO ENTERTAIN US. All Chapter Members and their guests attending the September 18, 19, 20, 1997 Florida Chapter Mini-Reunion are in for a real treat. This performer will hold the audience's interest for the entire 1 1/2 hour show...or longer....that is scheduled for Saturday Night, September 20th immediately after the banquet dinner.

Chairman and Chapter President Richard Baudouy, Peter Radichio, his lady friend, Audrey and I, Emil De Donato, went to see him perform at the Hernando Elks Lodge on July fourth. Steve Champagne is terrific. He sort of mesmerizes the audience by his antics, jokes, wise cracks mixed in with his performance that includes a super abundance of energy. Audience participation in singing and dancing are part of his show.

We were fortunate to book this talented performer and we urge you to make every effort to attend. A "Direct-mail" envelope consisting of the ORDER FORM, THE PROGRAM for the 3 days and all pertinent information will be sent out to the membership approximately a week after you receive this copy of the OCTOFOIL. We urge all attending members and their guests to please fill out the order form, include your check (no credit cards) made out to the **FL CHAPT 9TH INF DIV ASSN** and send your reply to Richard Baudouy, 515 Oakcrest St., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. (Our Treasurer, Phil Berman and his wife Barbara will not be able to attend).

Your immediate response is urgently needed. We need a head count to determine the amount of food and drinks to order. Complete information including direction to the INN AT MAIN-GATE in Kissimmee will be spelled out in the mailing. Any National Member wishing to attend this well planned function is asked to contact Emil J. De Donato, 3650 S. W. Mosswood Street, Dunnellon, FL 34431 or phone 352/489-4070.

NOTE: The room rate will be \$54.00 per night (double occupancy). My apology for mis-quoting the room rate as being under \$50.00 in the MARCH/APRIL issue of the OCTOFOIL. This rate is still a bargain for this high quality hotel.

MEMBER NEWS

HENRY SANTOS suffered a breakdown in health a few days after his return to his Tampa, Florida home from the 52nd Annual National Reunion held in Louisville, Kentucky. Henry worked very hard organizing and handling much of the details of this last National Reunion. He was rushed to the Tampa VA Hospital on May 28th. After his initial diagnosis, he was sent to Tampa General Hospital where the surgeons performed a triple by-pass on June 11, 1997. In a recent phone conversation with his wife Eva, we learned that Henry is responding slowly from his coma but making steady progress towards recovery. Our prayers and hopes are for a complete and speedy recovery. Anyone wishing to send a "get-well" card may do so by addressing it to Eva Santos, 9811 N. Connechusett Road, Tampa, FL 32617 or phone Eva at 813/985-5444.

SEWELL "BILL" CARSON. Bill and Bertha Carson first attended the 9th Medical Meeting in Tennessee and then went to the 52nd National Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky. Upon their return to their Melbourne, Florida home, Bill's health took a downward turn and was taken to the hospital. Bill is suffering from Leukemia however he is presently at home and taking medication. We pray that Bill has a speedy recovery. Norris and Dorothy Gray did all the driving while Bertha and Bill enjoyed being their passengers.

LILA & H. F. STANSELL: After all the festivities of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in June, Lila and H. F. are back home recuperating from all of the partying. We regret they will miss the Chapter September Meeting as it conflicts with their plans to attend the Company M, 60th Infantry mini-reunion which falls on the same September dates. When asked how they survived 50 years of togetherness.....H. F. replied "We just kept dodging bullets."

EMIL & AUDREY DE DONATO: On June 9th, Emil and Audrey joined the Rainbow Lakes Estates Travel Club group for a 4 day trip to Las Vegas. All went well for the first 3 days...lots of jokes, laughter, winning jackpots, good food and shows but then on the last day, both Emil & Audrey came home in wheel chairs. Details will be furnished to anyone who asks at the September Meeting. Happily, both Emil and Audrey are on the mend and together with Richard and Jean Baudouy are getting things organized for a lively Florida Chapter Mini-Reunion.

PETER "PETE" RADICHIO P.O. Box 1541, Homosassa Springs, FL 34447 add to roster. Yes...Pete is back with us. After 8 years of temporary Leave of Absence or being AWOL, Pete sent in three years of dues which makes him a full fledged Chapter Member. Pete is responsible for recommending STEVE CHAMPAGNE, the entertainer who has been booked to put on his show for us on Saturday, September 20th at the INN AT MAIN-GATE Hotel in Kissimmee, FL.

Peter was the Co-Chairman of the 1985 National Reunion which was held at the TWIN TOWERS hotel in Orlando, hosted by the Florida Chapter. Pete was Vice President of the Florida Chapter soon after its formation.

Pete Radichio spent thousands of hours visiting and helping recovering veterans in several South Florida Veteran's Hospitals. We welcome Pete back into the fold and trust he will enjoy our September Mini-Reunion which he plans to attend.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: Audrey De Donato will chair the Women's Business Meeting in the absence of President Lila Stansell. The meeting will be held in the Hospitality Room at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 1997. Audrey asks that all women attending the meeting to bring a Polyana gift. Also please put your plastic name badges in your suitcase immediately so you won't forget them.

Emil J. De Donato
3650 SW. Mosswood St.
Dunnellon, FL. 34431-3439
Phone: 352/489-4070

84th F. A. H.Q. Btry.

RIP RYBKA
5205 Sweetbrier Dr.
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

Kudos to all who were responsible for the great Louisville Reunion. 84th F.A. saw its "family" ranks dwindle by seven dear members during the last year. In addition, John and Eleanor Peluso and several others, who usually attend our reunions, were unable to be with us this year; needless to say, we had a rather sad/happy reunion. All this has made us realize how much more precious our times together grow!

After trying for seven years now, to get a line on her Uncle, Ernie Mardarello, who was with 47th Inf. E Co., my wife, Laryce, finally was delighted to find a buddy of his, Clarence Combs. Ernie, who suffered with Parkinson's Disease, passed away in 1988. Laryce was happy to finally bring word of this connection home to his widow, Geraldine.

I am enclosing a check for the Memorial Fund to honor the following people:

Pat Rice, Wife of Pete Rice; Maryagnes Szuba and son, wife and son of Matthew Szuba; Bob McGoldrick; Albert "Frenchy" Phenix; Steve Yovick; Jack Kargir and Ernest G. Mardarello.

Stay well 84th Field and all you guys and gals; we're looking forward to seeing you in Hampton. To borrow a familiar phrase from Dickens, "God bless us every one!"

C. Co. 9M MED. BN.
R.M. HUMMEL M.D.
2411 Lommel Ln.
Marion IN 46952

Enclosed are my dues for the year. A little late, but that's not unusual. Many noted that I wasn't always in step when we were marching.

Best wishes to you and all of friends as well. I enjoyed the cards that I have received from the guys from Co. C. in the 9th Medical Bn. I'm proud to have been in the 9th Bn.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

My recent illness and the death of our beloved former treasurer, Lou Slatnick, put a damper on our activities so far this year, but the chapter is still alive and well. Our president, Frank Haines, visited me and called me a number of times while I was laid up. We agreed to plan our next meeting in the early fall, as soon as most of our people have returned from vacation.

Frank is now vacationing on one of the Calendar Islands in Casco Bay, Maine. He and Mrs. Haines enjoy the tranquility of the Bay year after year. You'll all be receiving a letter from me sometime in September notifying you of the site and date of the meeting. We'll be happy to get together with you good men after too long an absence.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Edward Hopkins
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey
08840-2116

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER REPORT NY CHAPTER MINI REUNION AT FRIAR TUCK INN/RESORT

The New York Chapter is having a Mini-Reunion in the Fall at the Friar Tuck Inn in the Catskills. All Ninth men, their families and their friends are welcome.

Our package is for five days, four nights, beginning with dinner on Sunday, September 14, and ending with lunch on Thursday, September 18, 1997. The cost is as follows: \$231.00 per person double occupancy; \$265.00 single occupancy; \$216.00 per person triple occupancy. The above includes three meals daily, numerous activities and parties, gratuities and baggage handling. Golf is available five minutes away and the green fees are \$10.00 for guests.

Full payment must be received no later than August 23, 1997. Please make checks payable to the Greater New York Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Assn., and mail to:

Al Zenka, Treasurer
82-36 234th Street
Queens Village, NY 11427-2118

All inquiries should be directed to Al Lipton at (718) 463-0234. If Al is not there, please leave a message on his answering machine and he'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Hope you will join us for what we know will be an enjoyable get-together.

May Memorial Service for WWII Ninth Men

New York Area Chapter members assembled on Saturday, May 17, 1997 (Armed Forces Day) at the VA National Cemetery in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY for its annual Memorial Service to remember the 4,851 9th Inf Div comrades who lost their lives in World War II.

We gathered in the parking lot, and at 10:30 AM began our march down the Boulevard of Flags (50 flag poles were donated and funded by this chapter) led by the color guard carrying the Octofoil floral wreath. At the main assembly area where the cemetery staff had provided seats, lectern and public address system, services began with an invocation by George Apar, our residential chaplain. NY chapter president Al Lipton was first of many 9th men, and including Esta LiBretto, to give their moving thoughts for our departed comrades of WW II, and those who have since left us. The service was completed with the recorded playing of Taps. VA cemetery director Jimmy S. Adamson and his staff received our appreciation for their cooperation.

Following the service we followed each other in cars to Bethpage State Park where we set up for a cook-out picnic of hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad, cole slaw and soft drinks and beer. Members and their ladies had a good time, and in the late afternoon, after being satiated, we headed home.

June Meeting

The last meeting before the summer hiatus was held at Masonic Hall, our monthly command post in New York City, on June 20, 1997. President Al Lipton chaired the meeting after the usual opening ceremonies. Minutes were read by Secretary Art Schmidt and the financial report was given by Treasurer Al Zenka. Prez Lipton read correspondence from Tom Maggio and Herminio Suarez. Herminio is still recuperating from back surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at our monthly meetings.

A report by Lipton and other members who attended the 9th Inf. Div. Assn. Louisville reunion gave the annual reunion a thumbs up. On a sad note we were informed that outspoken firebrand Henry Santos, who had done so much to make the Louisville reunion a success, had fallen into a coma during heart surgery following the reunion. Our hearts go out to Henry and his family and hope Henry survives yet another one of his many bouts with ill health.

For those 9th men who intend to make the annual pilgrimage to the Worcester, Mass. Memorial in the fall, the date is set for Sunday, October 18, 1997.

Members attending the June meeting not mentioned above: George Apar, Mike Gatto, Vincent Guglielmino, Jack Holuboff; Joe Killen, Emil Langer, Marv Levy, Charlie LiBretto, Dan Quinn, Joe Rzesniowicki and Tony Varone.

The NY Chapter will not hold its next September meeting at Masonic Hall. The regular meeting date will be observed during our planned September mini reunion at Friar Tuck Inn/Resort.

Remember your dues NY Area members! \$10 for 1 year, \$25 for 3 years, and \$75 for Lifetime Membership. Make checks payable to the Greater NY Chapter, 9th Inf. Div. Assn. and send to Arthur R. Schmidt, Secretary, 89-12 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385.

15th Engrs.
FRANCIS MAHER
14 Davenport St.
Worcester, Ma 01610

Enclosed is a check for the next 3 years for dues.

Hoping to be in Louisville, KY for the reunion.

Weather here has been rain, snow and you name it.

Hope you folks are doing OK. I am looking forward to being with you in KY.

Marv Levy
Co A 60th
2044 Ellen Drive
Merrick, NY 11566-5404

JOHN BAUMAN
20908 W. Blossom Ln.
Plainfield, IL 60544

Enclosed herewith check for 3 years dues. We are moving to address shown on check. The best to you and Marie for the great job you have been doing all these years for the Octofoil.



Members of the 9th Medical Bn are pictured at their 15th annual reunion held in Pigeon Forge Tennessee.

9TH MEDICAL BATTALION 1997 REUNION

Pigeon Forge Tennessee was the site of the 15th annual reunion. It was held at the Hearthlander Hotel May 19-21 in this beautiful Month with the re-awakening of all of nature's beauty, especially here in the foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains.

The wives, family and friends accompanied the 13 members from 9 different states, a total of 34 people attended. From "C" Co.: Alex Balough, Chalmus Cochran, Charles Denton, Carl Motley, John Klooz and Sue Johnstone, widow of our beloved Bruce. From "B" Co.: Willard Haas, Donald Hyde and Peter Radichio. From "A" Co.: Tandy Frazier and Oliver Karns. From Headquarters: Sewell Carson, Richard Cooley and Joseph Medea.

Richard Cooley called the meeting to order. This was followed by the presentation of the National and Battalion Flags, the singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer.

Chalmus and Greta Cochran were thanked for their help in organizing the meeting and for Cynthia Hyde for dinner arrangements. The guests were introduced at this time, followed by the reading of the minutes of the last meeting by Barbara Denton. A nice check to defray expenses was received from Andy Kopach, who was not able to attend the reunion. A short business meeting was held, during which the members voted to hold the next reunion at Pigeon Forge, May 4-6, 1998. This was followed by the Memorial Service, to pay respect to those who have passed on. May they rest in peace.

The "John H. Lewis Memorial" service was conducted by Charles Denton for all our deceased. The honor roll of the deceased members was read followed by a silent prayer, benediction and the playing of taps.

It should be noted that the following members assisted at the meeting and memorial services: Richard Cooley, Norris Gray, William Haas, Joseph Medea, Carl Motley and Peter Radichio.

Picture taking followed the adjournment. All had a great time renewing friendships, recalling past experiences, browsing through picture albums, sightseeing and shopping.

All former Battalion members not on the mailing list are asked to send your name, address and unit to: Chalmus Cochran, P.O. Box 6, Cherry Log, GA 30522-0006.

Sab Agostinelli,
Headquarters 9th MED
39 Latta Rd.
Rochester, NY 14612-4707



Herb Olsen of the New England Chapter carries the Octofoil wreath for placement at the Memorial Service in Kentucky. Herb's twin brother was KIA in Normandy-both served with Company G47th Infantry.

Taps Sounded

Call out or names
as the years go by-
Remember us-
and we will never die

With deep remorse we announce the passing of these friends and comrades.
May they rest in peace.
To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

Artur Charron
A Co. 60th Inf.

Raymond Nichols
E Co. 39th Inf.

Thora Canedy
Wife of Dennis Canedy
B Co. 47th Inf.

William J. Ellis
9th Signal

Royal Edmark
60th Inf.

Walter J. Smith
C Co. 39th Inf.

Frank Personette
A Btry 34th F.A.

Lester Nichols
B Btry 34th F.A.

John O'Donnell
Hqs. Btry Div. Arty

Dr. Anthony Sordill
9th Med's and 47th Inf.

Dr. Jay P. Roller
9th Med's and 39th Inf.

John H. Schettig
Co. M. 60th Inf.

60th Inf. C Co.
GERARD J. CHARRON
404 Cross Rd.
Cocoa, FL 32926

With profound regret and remorse I announce the passing of my twin brother who also was in the 9th. He was in the A Company 60th Inf. His name was Arthur E. Charron. I would also like to send a check for the Memorial Fund in his honor. I regret to be late in sending my dues but I'm sending you \$20 dollars for two years. I'd appreciate it if you could send me two Octofoils when you put his name in the Taps and Memorial Fund. I would like to send his son and family one because they were proud of him as I was for serving with him. Dan, I wish to thank you and your wife for doing such a good job with the Octofoil. Keep up the good work.

39th Inf. Med Hqts.
PETER A. RADICHIO
P.O. Box 1541
Homosassa Springs, FL,
34447

Received a letter from Doc. Roller's daughter letting me that her dad passed away. I hope all you men C.A. - 39 Medical Headquarters remember Doc. He was a great man and leader. The 9th battalion should remember him leading us men through chicken road etc. in Fort Bragg, N.C. The tops doesn't quit. Rest in peace Dr. J.P. Roller we'll miss you. Where you lead we follow. Forever your friend!

Service Btry
84th FA Bn
FREDERICK TALARICO
503 Elm Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201-6537

I am enclosing a copy of the obituary on John O'Donnell and enclosing a



Mike Belmonte is shown as he was presented a scroll making him "Honorary Colonel of Kentucky" by Bob Hughes of the 15th Engineers.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

We would also like to offer our condolences to David and DV Heller in the loss of their daughter, Lisa, in June. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The Baumans have moved from their home in Chicago to Cambridge of Carillon in Plainfield, Illinois. They have a beautiful home — all one level and much easier to maintain and manage. Good luck John and Dolores.

Many of the Illinois Chapter have been invited to a surprise 75th Birthday party for Paul Clark on July 26th. Many happy returns Paul.

We recently spoke with Irma Koskie (Chuck 47th Inf. F Co.). She is still at home with a live-in and holding her own. She misses not attending all the 9th functions.

On July 29th and 30th, we will be holding our Mini Reunion in Madison. Unless we get a better turn-out than last year, we may have to cancel future reunions in Madison and just go back to local Memorial Services in May. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

The Illinois Chapter will be hosting the Outstate Meeting in Angola on October 14th and 15th. The rooms will be \$53.00 plus tax. Reservations are to be made directly to the Holiday Inn in Angola, Indiana or calling 1-219-665-9471. Cut off date for making reservations is October 1st. We hope to have a good turnout. Please plan to attend.

Looking forward to a great summer and anticipating next year's Reunion in Hampton, Virginia. Good luck to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Belmonte
1161 S. Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304



Mike Gatto shown in 1944 with (L to R) 1st Sgt. James Miller, Captain Gatto, and Sgt. Patterson of Company I 60th Infantry. Mike was a very young Company Commander, at that time, January 1945 in Mutzerich, Germany. The second photo shows Gatto (center) with Miller and Patterson when they got together after Louisville Reunion. Miller and Gatto traveled to Round Hill, Kentucky for the get together.

check to the memorial fund in his memory.

John was with HQ Btry, DivArty. He and I were inducted on the same day and came direct to the 9th on Feb. 22, 1941.

Remember the Dates
May 5, 6, 7, 1998
53rd Reunion
Hampton, Va.

Deadline for next issue Oct. 20th

Business Conducted at Reunion

Minutes of the 183rd Meeting of the Board of Governors The Ninth Infantry Division Association

The meeting took place in the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky on May 22, 1997 at the 52nd Reunion. President Perna called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. (time changed due to Boat ride scheduled immediately after meeting) and asked the members to stand for a moment of silence for our departed comrades. Attending the meeting were Tom Hatton, Billie Martin (alternate for Floyd Hennessey), Ken Meyer, Ron Murphy, Herb Olsen, Bill Shea, Mike Belmonte, Al Zenka, Charles Libretto, James Driscoll, Owen Salle, Treasurer Tom Boyle and Judge Advocate Dave Heller.

Also in attendance were Past Presidents, Walt O'Keeffe, Bob DeSandy, Emil Langer, Henry Santos, George Brown, Frank Haines, Jack Collier, Martin Gross, Larry McLaughlin.

Secretary Quinn when called upon for the minutes of the last meeting held in Worcester, Ma., in October 1996 gave an oral report of the happenings. Upon a motion made by Charles Libretto and seconded by Mike Belmonte it was voted to accept the report as given.

Tom Boyle gave his Treasurer's report of the spendings and income of the association for the past year. Upon a motion made by Tom Hatton and seconded by Bill O'Shea it was voted to: Accept the treasurer's report as submitted.

Veterans Awards

Larry McLaughlin Chairman of the Veterans Awards Committee named these members who serve with him on this permanent committee, Henry Santos and Adolph Wadalavage. A discussion on the subject was held regarding the awards and upon a motion made by Tom Hatton and seconded by Ken Meyer it was proposed that \$400.00 be allowed the Florida Veterans Hospital and that \$300.00 be allowed the Texas Chapter submitted for the Vets Hospital. So approved.

Martin Gross addressed the Board members on the possibility of opening the membership to Associate members. This began a round table discussion on the future of the association and the wind down of same.

As the hour was getting late, Tom Hatton proposed the discussion be closed or tabled till a future meeting and that any member with a strong feeling or opinion on this subject put it in writing and present it at the next Board Meeting. So moved.

President Perna then appointed the following Board members to serve as Chairman of the Various Committees for the General Membership Committee:

Finance Committee:

Tom Hatton

Newspaper Committee:

Billie Martin

Nominating Committee:

Mike Belmonte

Bylaws Committee:

Al Zenka

Miscellaneous Committee:

Herb Olsen

Upon a motion made by Mike Belmonte and seconded by Chas Libretto it was voted to close the Meeting at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Assn.

The 52nd meeting of the Ninth Infantry Division Association took place on May 23, 1997 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. President of the Association Al Perna called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked the 179 members present to rise for a moment of silent prayer in memory of our departed comrades. He then asked for a recess till 10:30 a.m. in order for the various committee groups to meet. He named the following Board members who will act as Chairpersons for the various committees. By-laws Al Zenka, Finance Tom Hatton, Newspaper Billie Martin, Nominating Mike Belmonte and Miscellaneous Herb Olsen. President Perna requested the members who will serve on these committee meetings along with any other member in attendance who would like to serve on a committee to gather at a designated area and report back at 10:30 a.m. for the general meeting.

At 10:35 a.m. President Perna reopened the meeting and requested the members to join with him in saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Quinn read the minutes of the 51st meeting held at the Concord Hotel, Catskill, New York on June 5, 1996 and upon a motion made by Bob Hughes and seconded by Emil Langer it was voted to: Accept the reading of the minutes as read and instruct the secretary to place copy of same on file.

The treasurer Tom Boyle when called upon for his yearly report gave a detailed report of the financial conditions of the association by stating "To the best of my knowledge all demands have been paid or settlement made thereof. I have no knowledge of outstanding receipts or expenses."

President Perna thanked Boyle for his report and upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Anton Dietrich it was voted to: Accept the Treasurer's report.

President Perna called the Chairman of the Miscellaneous Committee and Herb Olsen reported that the following members served with him on this committee: Emil Langer, Rodger Alsgaard, Jim Driscoll, Phil Cancellate, Bill Scott, Pete Rice, Ron Murphy and Rev. Jerry Rowan. The committee recommends that more publicity be given to other publications such as Vet's magazines and local newspapers other than the Octofoil.

(2nd) Not to hold these reunions on or near holidays, such as this weekend, the Memorial Day, or in the month of June. (3) Try to keep the registration desk

for our reunions away from the main floor (or 1st floor) and to avoid having another large reunion at the same time as the Ninth's (4) more consideration to avoid long lines — stairs to climb and any over exertions that can be avoided. (5) The Texas chapter would like to get a feeling on a trip to Europe, "input" on ideas for same such as timing, where to journey to etc. Upon a motion made by Walter Victor and seconded by John Miller it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Miscellaneous Committee.

Tom Hatton Chairman of the Finance Committee was called for his report, named the following members who served with him on this committee Jim Dawson, Tony Soprano, Gordon Anderson, Bob DeSandy, John Miller, Michael Wengryn, Jack Collier and William Canary. The committee reviewed the fiscal information from the annual report of the Treasurer and discussed the financial situation with Tom Boyle. The committee approved submission of the following budget for the fiscal year 1997-98. Based on this year's income we will generate an income of \$20,000.00 from the following sources:

Dues	\$ 9,200.00
Investments	2,500.00
Reunion	1,500.00
Sales	200.00
Total	\$13,400.00
Existing Funds	6,665.00
	\$20,065.00

Disbursements:

Secretary Salary	\$1,000.00
Clerical help	1,000.00
Utilities	1,330.00
Postage	3,420.00
Miscellaneous	570.00
Supplies	720.00
Secretary's Expense	1,000.00
Treasurer's Expense	400.00
Octofoil	8,500.00
Accountant	300.00
Reunion	100.00
Memorial Wreath	125.00
Bank Charges	100.00
Donations	1,000.00
Editor's Expense	500.00
Total	\$20,065.00

Upon a motion made by Herb Olsen and seconded by John Miller it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee.

President Perna thanked Tom Hatton and his committee for their report.

Mike Belmonte Chairman of the Nominating Committee then named the following men who served with him on this committee: Martin Gross, Jack Blann, Hal Gardner, Tom Boyle, Richard Boudouy. Belmonte explained that four members were leaving the Governing body and these members were to take their place: Dick Starr from the Philly Chapter, Jack Collier from the Illinois Chapter, Richard Boudouy from the Florida Chapter and Larry McLaughlin from the N.E. Chapter. The Alternates were from Philly, 1st Alternate Lenny Tomsaone, 2nd Alternate Tony Soprano. From the Illinois Chapter 1st Alternate Paul Clark, 2nd Alternate Dave Heller, from Florida 1st Alternate Arnold Tomanek, 2nd Alternate Joe Kearns, from NJ Chapter 1st Alternate Frank Haines, 2nd Alternate Herb Hoepfner,

Martin Gross 1st (Alternate) NY Chapter, 2nd Al Lipton, and John Miller to take the place of Phil Emmons on the Board of Governors with Bill Scott as his 1st Alternate and Ernie Bottella as 2nd alternate for the Texas Chapter. N.E. Chapter will have Herb Olsen as 1st alternate and Al Ferrante as 2nd. Michigan Chapter 1st Alternate John Bonkowski, 2nd Elmer Wagner.

Upon a motion made by Bob DeSandy and seconded by Ron Murphy it was voted to: Accept the report and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. President Perna thanked Mike Belmonte and his committee for their report.

Al Zenka Chairman of the By-Laws committee named the following members who served with him on this committee Everett Tapp, Frank Haines, Dave Heller, Owen Salle, Anton Dietrich. Zenka reported that the committee did not have any changes to be made or added to the By-Laws but they had met with the nominating committee and suggested that the recommendations made at the 1994 reunion to add two (2) members to the Board of Governors to comply with. Upon a motion made by Art Schmidt and seconded by Anton Dietrich it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendations of the By-Laws committee. President Perna thanked Al Zenka and his committee for their report.

Billie Martin Chairman of the Newspaper Committee than named the following members, who served with him on this committee: Art Schmidt, Paul Clark, Joe Killen, John Bonkowski, and Bob Alberter. The committee is satisfied with The Octofoil as handled and wish to thank the Editors for a job well done. The committee recommends that articles sent to the paper be as brief as possible as space is limited. Especially since now a lot of members are searching for buddies or members that served with them during the War.

President Perna thanked Martin and his committee for their report and upon a motion made by Roger Alsgaard and seconded by Marty Gross it was voted to: Accept the report and recommendation of the newspaper committee.

Ken Meyer of the Texas Chapter asked permission to address the membership and told that in 1987 the Army began a program called the Regimental Continuity Program and how the 39th Infantry and 47th Infantry Regiments were integrated into this program. The idea was to get Regiments with outstanding Combat records and have them form a Regimental Association. Membership in this organization was for those who served honorably in these Regiments. Meyer was the first Honorary Sergeant Major in 1988 and since then Gen. Chip Maness was named the 47th Regiment Honorary Colonel of the 47th. A few days ago Meyer had received a document from the Secretary of the Army to present to a distinguished member of the

47th Infantry "In recognition of his special continuity, tradition and esprit de corps" by order of the Secretary of the Army Daniel Quinn is granted and assigned the Distinction of Distinguished Member of the 47th Infantry Regiment. Meyer then presented Quinn with a plaque and scroll from the Secretary of the Army.

President Perna asked the membership if there was any new business or old and Tom Boyle addressed the membership regarding the Memorial Service begun in 1945 by the late Rev. Father Connors and upon his demise in 1986 continued by "Friends of Father Connors" every year since the passing of Father Connors and this year the Memorial will be held on October 19, 1997, for the 53rd year. The Mass and service was always held by Father Connors near Armistice day in November but by moving the date up into October while Daylight Saving time is still in effect will give the members the extra hour of daylight in their trip back home. When asked of the condition of the Monument Boyle reported that repairs were made last year with donations received from the membership and that the Monument is in very good condition.

McKnight spoke of the lack of a Member-at-Large on the Board of Governors of the Association to represent the many members who do not belong to a Chapter.

John Miller of the Texas Chapter then spoke of the proposed trip to Europe and by having two buses for tours of different areas. He said that notice will be published in the Octofoil for any ideas on this subject. He then went on with the subject of the final days of the association and how to disperse with funds of the association.

Ken Meyer then introduced Rev. Father Jerry Rowan to take a bow and be acknowledged.

Dr. George Nicklin spoke of the gradually dissolution of the association and the Life Expectancy that if you live to the age of 70 you life expectancy is 90, if you reach 75 your expectancy is 94. To every one in this room "they say only the good die young" so we already knock that saying for a loop.

Roger Alsgaard of the Michigan Chapter spoke of what we are going to do with the association when we get too old to meet and how his son's father-in-law from WW2 at their meeting last year declared this would be the last one and how he received a notice there would be a reunion this year. Alsgaard recommends that we forget this thought of breaking up and throwing in the towel and that each chapter keep the tradition going by keeping it alive until we reach the last "Man."

There being no other business to come before this body and upon a motion made by Marty Gross and seconded by Ron Murphy it was voted to: Adjourn at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn

Continued next page

E & F Company CP 47th Inf.

Once again our Joint CP arrangement worked successfully in Louisville, this time without me. It just goes to show you how indispensable one man can be. George Brown once again performed an admirable job doing the logistics and hosting the CP. His list of those who participated in the festivities wasn't complete, but I do know that the following men from F Company answered the roll call at The Galt: Roger Alsgaard, Earl Wilkey, John Zulkowski, Dan Quinn, Bob DeSandy, Chuck Jones, Ray Schmader, Herb Hoepfner, Angelo Memoli, Charles Rochelle, and Ed Johnstone. I know that many of the wives accompanied their men on this excursion, and some of our widows were present, notably Jackie Armstrong. Those E Company stalwarts that I have on my list included Walter O'Keefe, Charles McIlhiney, Pat O'Conner, Bob Lewis, and Jack Blann. I know I missed the names of quite a few guys from both companies, so I must apologize for the neglect.

I'm sorry that I was on sick call during the reunion. It wasn't so much the quintuple by-pass or the internal operation a week later that prevented me from making the trip, but my bout with pneumonia in March accompanied by heart failure and kidney failure that almost sent me to the Happy Hunting Grounds. I was still hooked up to oxygen when you guys called from Louisville. I want to thank so many of you good men for sending me get-well cards which did so much to cheer me up: Chuck Jones, Bob Landis, Joe Bergin, George Brown and Lee Grimwood. I was pleased to receive cards and letters of encouragement from a surprising number of F Company widows, including Jackie Armstrong, Marie Tokarchek, Jule Hoffler and Jerry Geyer. I'm always afraid to list names for fear of omitting someone. I also had hospital visits from Dan Quinn, Jack Finnigan, and Herb and June Hoefner. I almost forgot to mention the cheerful phone calls I received from the DeSandys, Jackie Armstrong, George King, Herb Hoepfner and Jack Finnigan. Thanks to one and all. Lucy and I definitely plan to be in Hampton Roads next year. This time I'll stay away from the waterfront, though. They're not getting me on a ship again. Stay healthy, all you old soldiers, and bring your ladies to Virginia next year. Au revoir!

Edward Hopkins
Ninth Infantry Division Association
New Jersey Chapter
110 Hollywood Avenue
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-2116

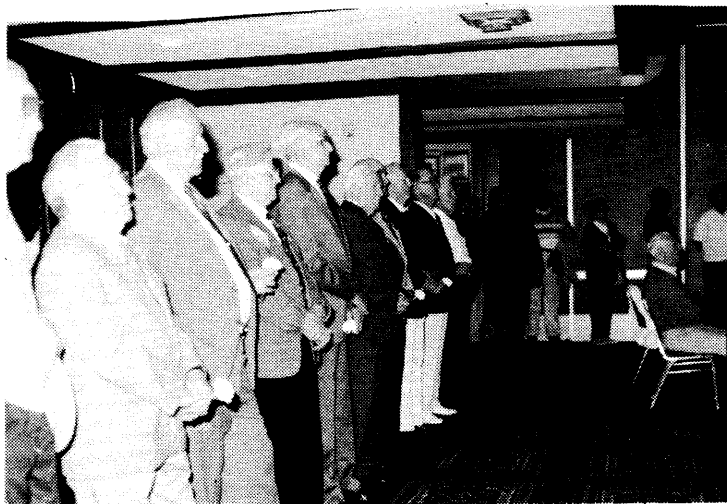
Jack Blann's Book — A Private's Diary Now Available

Jack Blann's new book, A Private's Diary — The Battle of Germany as Seen Through the Eyes of an 18 Year Old Infantry Rifleman, has been received from the printer's and is available to all members of the Ninth Division at a reduced price.

In May of 1945, at the conclusion of the war in Europe, PFC. Blann was still only eighteen years old. But even at that young age he realized the enormity of the events that he had just witnessed as a member of the Second Platoon, E Company, 47th Infantry Regiment of the Ninth Infantry Division. With the experience still dominating his thoughts, he sat down and wrote a detailed account of each day of the battle of Germany, as he and the other members of the second platoon had lived it.

This is a beautifully hardbound, limited edition, with many photographs by the author and other members of E Company. Publisher's list price is \$24.95, but the special price of Ninth Division members is \$19.95, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Orders from Texas should include \$1.90 for state sales tax. Order your copy now to insure delivery before the Louisville Meeting. The author will bring a limited number of books to Louisville, but the supply may not be sufficient.

For immediate delivery, order from J&L Publishing, 11303 Valley Stream Drive, Houston, Texas 77043.



Members of the Board of Governors of the Association are pictured as they wait their turn to participate in the Memorial Service held at the Kentucky reunion.

Continued from last page Minutes of the 184th Meeting Board

The 184th meeting of the Board of Governors of the Ninth Infantry Association took place on May 23, 1997 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. President Perna called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Present for the meeting were Herb Olsen, Michael Belmonte, Ken Meyer, Al Zenka, Charles Libretto, Tom Hatton, Owen Salle, Frank Haines alternate for Ed Hopkins, Larry McLaughlin, Tom Boyle, Dave Heller. Also present were Emil Langer, Marty Gross, Roger Alsgaard, Ron Murphy, John Bonkowski, Pete Radichio, Joe Kileen, Lou Gray and Billie Martin.

Upon a motion made by Tom Hatton and seconded by Owen Salle it was voted to: Dispense the reading of the minutes of the last meeting held on 21st of 1997.

A motion was made by Al Zenka and seconded by Charles Libretto to: Dispense with the treasurer's report.

President Perna called for election for the coming year and Tom Hatton was elected President. Perna turned over the gavel of his office to Hatton who continued with the elections. Elected to serve with him next year:

1st Vice President:
Billie Martin
2nd Vice President:
Ron Murphy
3rd Vice President:
Pat DeColi
Judge Advocate:
Dave Heller
Treasurer:
Tom Boyle
Secretary:
Dan Quinn

Hatton thanked the members for electing him to the office of President of the Association and with their assistance he will continue with the "Traditions of his predecessors" and do his best for the Association.

Outgoing President Perna thanked the members for their cooperation for the past year. Perna then announced the dates for next reunion to be held in Hampton, Virginia — Holiday Inn — May 5, 6, 7th 1998. That is Tues. to Thursday. This was approved by the Board at the meeting held in Worcester last October. Perna will be the Chairman and George Brown and Dan Quinn will be his Co-Chairmen.

Ernie Botella submitted a bid for the 1999 reunion for the Texas Chapter to hold the site in Houston, Tx in early May.

Ron Murphy submitted a bid for the New England Chapter to hold the 1999 reunion in Maine. (Portland) President Hatton requested that the members hold off the voting on the site for 1999 till the next year's reunion which will be held in Hampton, Virginia.

Tom Boyle, Chairman of the Memorial Services to be held on Saturday, May 24th requested that Board members participating in the ceremony submit the names and asked that they wear a shirt and jacket. Boyle then briefed the membership as

K Company 47th Inf.

SHOW BIZ

Not only has it been established that Forest Grump was in the 2nd. Btn/47th., thus raising the battalions IQ 50%, I do believe I saw an old movie, the other night, where the people were wearing 9th. patches. It was the Young Lions with Montgomery Clift, Dean Martin, and Marlon Brando. I was in bed and my angle of vision was not too good of this black and white flick, but they sure looked like Ninth patches.

Hollywood trying to shed a little light on the Stealth Division.

First Things First

I shall reserve the new army stuff until I finish with our war. One of my sons gave me a book for Father's Day entitled, "The German Infantry Handbook, 1939-1945" by Alex Buchner, and it opened my eyes to things I never knew about our enemy. They were completely horse drawn. Any army burdened with 3 million horses shouldn't have lasted six months. Having been in the horse cavalry, believe me, it is better to walk and care for yourself than ride and have to mess with a stupid horse.

Other than the arms and horses their line companies were very similar to ours. They had three rifle platoons with four squads of ten men each and a total compliment of 178 men. The company's armament consisted of 16 machine pistols, 12 light machine guns, 44 pistols, 130 rifles, 3 anti-tank rifles, 3 grenade launchers, one saddle horse (Company Commander), 12 to 18 draft horses, 8 bicycles, 1 motorcycle, 1 motorcycle with sidecar, and 3 trucks. They said the Russians always killed the Aid Men, so they didn't wear an arm band and they carried pistols. So much for the Geneva Convention. Had I been a Kraut Company Commander, one of my runners would have had a horse to ride, and I would have a Hog with a sidecar.

A regiment had 210 horse-drawn wagons with 600 horses, including saddle horses. A division had a veterinarian company to keep the horses in good shape. There were 1,380,000 horses enlisted in 1943, about 3 million during the entire war. Of these 1.7 million were killed in combat or by Kraut hunger, the remainder ended up in Russia for one purpose or another.

The division had a Baking Company along with a Butcher company. The author said the butcher company produced so much steam that they were forced to work at night. I have an idea they also wanted to hide from Fritz that his favorite nag was being turned into sausage.

In my eight months with K Company, I heard horses moving around at night two or three times, but I never saw an army horse hitched up to anything, living or dead. In Normandy, we ran into beaucoup bicycles and I saw a slew of burned out tanks, trucks, and cars, but no horses.

Thank God I didn't know about those horses because I might have gotten a whole lot more optimistic and probably got my ass shot off.

ROLL CALL

Helen and Al Holmes haven't stopped moving. They were off to Cape Cod to attend a wedding. Helen probably pushed every wheelchair in Mass., and led the choir at the church.

Joe was getting back to his game in preparation for the Western Open to be held in his home town. I watched the gallery following Tiger Woods very carefully, but I never did spot Joe. He was probably following one of the white losers.

Red and Ethel are still trying to get rid of all that money before it backs up on them. They took a trip to the gambling dens of East Chicago and dumped a load, but the Bulls won and they are back in the same predicament.

George Bastedo decided to get a pace maker for his heart. The reason was not medical but musical. The old one just went along with a steady bonk-bonk-bonk and he decided a little boogie and its eight to the bar would add some excitement to his otherwise dull life. You've got to keep in mind that it is a pretty big fall descending from Top Sergeant to citizen.

That is all the K people I have heard from since the reunion, so they shall be the only recipients of the Colored K.

Co. K 47th Inf.

CHESTER H. JORDAN
1058 West Lakeview Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4641

to what to expect and who will be part of the ceremony.

Dave Heller then addressed the members as to the possibility of turning over the funds of the Association when we "throw in the towel" and end the affairs of the outfit. Heller leaned towards a scholarship and briefed the members as what to expect when going that route.

Frank Haines agreed to act as a Chairman of "The long range planning" of the association and Frank stated that we ought to look into all aspects of the whole prob-

lem. Judge Advocate Heller suggested one aspect but Frank Haines asked that we look into the legal language for such a resolution when adopting such resolutions for the by-laws, or the demise of the association.

There being no other business to come before the Board and upon a motion made by Al Perna and seconded by Tom Hatton it was voted to: Adjourn the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Quinn
National Secretary

MAIL CALL

60th Inf.

DONALD F. BUTLER, SR.
95 Private Drive 551
Ironton, Ohio 45638-8682

I am doing some research on WW II infantry divisions, and would like to get some information on the 9th Infantry Division during WW II. A well known book was written about the division at the end of WW II by Joseph B. Middleton, which was entitled "Eight Stars to Victory."

Do you by any chance have this book for sale or, if not, know where I could get it? Do you have other publications on the WW II 9th Infantry Division for sale?

60th F.A.

HENRY W. SHIMKOSKI
2 Montrose St.
Worcester, MA 01810

In Merry Old England we learned to do well
With time to recover our sagging morale
But months to days melted and D day drew near
Bid farewell to England, made ready our gear
And the channel we crossed, hit the beaches of France
With all that we had and left nothing to chance
We shelled them, harassed them, with no place to hide
And cut through Normandy, a win for our side

The Hedgerows were next for the 9th near St. Lo.
On land of green pastures, and the Calvado
Where the men were dying by cattle now dead,
In fields turned scarlet from wounded that bled.

In every position they lay as they fell
Their lot must be heaven for they have seen Hell
I gazed at them sadly and saw there my face
On each one before me, and me in their place

Very long was the road, 'set with many fears.
Holding out a promise, shedding of more tears.
At Falaise Gap it's said, the noose we pulled tight
For thousands of Germans this was their last fight

From Paris to Belgium they made their retreat
With the 9th in pursuit, to hasten defeat.
The taking of Aachen we say with just pride,
The first German city to fall to our side

The chase then continued to the Rhine River,
or final bombardments so did deliver
It was at the Remagen a bridge didn't blow,
We crossed it and finished a staggering foe

Mopping up continued as far as Berlin,
The 9th earned and deserved this glorious win.
We shall never forget, all those left behind,
For they will always be in our hearts enshrined

Co. K 60th Inf.

JOE RAPPAZINI
24001 Sherman St.
Oak Park, MI 48237

For nigh to fifty years there has been delivered to me a newspaper — "The Octofoil" — with nary a plea! It has been truly a treasure that is continually awaited — and never once has its forthcoming abated! What an example of affection and devotion it reveals, and all the credit in the world to you is my appeal. Above and beyond that, I am sure, the Good Lord will bless you, I am sure. There are words of of thanks and gratitude that I might extend, but the gratitude in my heart knows no end. For countless days and multiple years now you've restored memories and enlivened tears and for this you're held most dear.

Gratefully,

Vet Awards

The awards committee is ready and eager to consider any VA Hospital or nursing home, or old soldier's home needs for needed items the government does not supply them regularly. See or call the chief of volunteers and ask for their wish list and mail a copy to us. Send to:

Larry McLaughlin, Chairman. 82 Gould St., Wakefield, MA 01880

Co. E. 47th Inf.

FERMIN MARTINEZ
7th St. A-9 Bello Horizonte
Guayama, P.R. 00784

Hope everything is well with you and yours. As for me getting older, and older everyday.

Thank you for reminding me of my dues. I completely forgot about them.

Never the less I am sending you a check for twenty-five dollars in this letter.

I hope that will cover me for another couple of years.

Give my regards to the remaining Boys of Co. E. 47th Inf. Dec. 1941 Fort Bragg, N.C.

I hope they are well.

60th Inf. M Co.

H. F. STANSELL
217 River Beach Dr.
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

Hello all you 9th Division people, I know a lot of you folks have celebrated your 50th wedding anniversary in the past, we are the lucky ones as a lot of people were not so lucky.

Lila and I started celebrating in April with a lovely cruise to Bermuda. We had guests at home three different times in May enjoyed them very much. June 12th was the real date of our 50th anniversary. On June 14th we were in our hometown of Rome and Lindale, Ga. There we enjoyed a fantastic party with family and friends. The party was in the building where our first date originated. Of course the building had changed over the 50th years and is now the Christian Life Center for the First Baptist Church in Lindale, Ga. It was a wonderful party, very successful. Everyone enjoyed it.

We wish to thank all our 9th Division friends for all the beautiful cards, phone calls and good wishes we received for our 50th anniversary. We love all you, you are great people.

My 60th M Co. is having our annual reunion in Pigeon Forge, Tn. September 16th-19th, we plan to be there.

We hope our Florida Chapter will have the fall meeting with later dates than September 16-19 so we can attend the Florida meeting also.

Good luck and may God bless each of you.

39th Inf. Hqs.

HAROLD COOK
2016 Village Green
Richardson, TX 75081

I am enclosing my check to renew my dues for three years.

Thanks for sending me the Octofoil. I enjoy reading it. My only "complaint" is that there is very few people from the 39th that are mentioned. I was in 1st Bn. Hdq. of the 39th as a wireman. I was wounded on July 18, 1944 and spent the rest of my Army time in the hospital.

Sorry, I can not make the Louisville Reunion.

Take care.

Co. I and Serv CO. 47th Inf.

CALVIN HARMS
231 E. Madison Ave.
Dumont, NJ 07628

Sorry about being late, enclosed is a check for 3 years. Doing OK with my battle with cancer. Doctor said things look good, Thank the Lord. Hello to the boys in I Co. and Service Co. and Personnel HQ and Reg HQ of 47th. Remember the Reunion at West Point, a great feeling being in the same building as many great leaders from our great country. Regards to your wife.

CALL OR WRITE A
FRIEND -
ENCOURAGE HIM
TO JOIN THE
ASSOCIATION

CO. C 9th Med. Bn.

Ralph Palermo
223 Barbara Dr.
McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Enclosed is my dues. I have been neglecting my responsibility. Been kept busy. Holding my own. Still involved with volunteer work and keeping busy in veteran affairs. Received invitation from our PA Governor to attend the dedication ceremony of the Southwestern Veterans Center, in Pittsburgh, PA. Dedication will be Monday, July 14, 1997 at 10:30 A.M.

Sorry I missed the last reunion, also to let you know, that I am still kicking, but not too high. I want to say hello to all my buddies and keep the 9th moving ahead.

39th Infantry, Anti-Tank Co.

WILLIAM H. SAGE
435 Highland Drive
Madison, Indiana 47250

I attended the 9th Inf. reunion in Louisville, Ky., one day, May 22, 1997. Enjoyed meeting Dan Quinn, Henry Santos and several others whose names I have forgotten. Was disappointed that none of my Co. were there or at least they had not registered yet. When I left only about 30 members had registered from the 39th Regiment.

I really enjoyed being there for a little while. The reunion seemed to be well organized and planned.

Sorry my legs and back prevented me from attending many of the functions and activities that were planned.

Hope everyone enjoyed Louisville and the surrounding area. We just live 50 miles from Louisville and we drive there about every week.

As always the 9th put on a good show so keep up the good work.

SEEKING

ALBERT TROSTORF
Schloss-Strasse 12
52379 Langerwehe-Merode
Fed. Rep. of Germany
Dear Mr. Quinn,

I am the vice-president of the 3rd (German) Parachute Assoc. and I am anxious to contact your famous Division association, concerning the history of the II. World War in the Battle of the Huertgen forest area, with the regiments 39th, 47th and 60th during the period of Sept. 15, 1944 to November 15, 1944 and the Battle of the Bulge and the Roer River area.

We are also so anxious to contact former members of your unit, who wanted to change information concerning the battles above. Also we wanted to ask you, if you can send us a shoulder patch of your Division and where we can get a history book or a chronik about your famous Division.

Perhaps it is possible and you can print a short note concerning our research for your comrades in your coming newsletter.

We are also so happy, if you guys can visit us to our coming reunions.

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15th Engrs. Bn. B Co. Hqs. Co.

PAUL BOLDUC
573 Woonasquatucket Ave.
No. Providence, R.I. 02911

I would like to renew my dues for another three years. I could not make the "1997" Reunion because I had a quadruple by-pass a couple of years ago and one of the veins is not working as it is supposed to work. I hope to live out this three year renewal and sign for another three when this runs out (that was the spirit of the 9th Div). I did not cut out the form in The Octofoil because I want to give The Octofoil to another member of the 9th Inf. Div.

I was a member of "B" Company and Headquarters Co. Enclosed is a check for dues plus a little extra for the memorial fund. A Tip of the Hat for Phil Enmons, Henry Crane, Paul Lyboht, Byron Ansell, Glen Bowan and all other members of 15th Engineer Bn.

Good Luck to you and all other members of the 9th Inf. Div. Association. Keep up the good work!

PS. Tip of the Hat to Mary Murphy, wife of Ronald Murphy and his family.

26 F.A.

WILLIAM BONGIORNO
108 S. Hampton Dr.
Jupiter, FL 33458

I am sorry to have missed the reunion this year, but as you know, we are not as mobile as we used to be. Both Ellie and I have had our health problems over the past couple of years.

Well I am very happy to report that this past month my second great-grandson arrived, Tyler Nicholas.

We have had another great winter down here in Florida this year. We also celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary this past March. Imagine, the Army said it wouldn't last.

I guess that we are pretty lucky that we are still able to enjoy this great life in the greatest country in the world. Our friendship with our comrades is eternal. I often think of many of our deceased friends especially Fr. Connors, Johnny Murray, Joe Albanese, Joe McKenzie and all of the others.

Good health to all.

